

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING FIGURES

FIGURE 1A has been amended by moving light source power supply, **26**, originally mounted on printed circuit board **16**, to enclosure **10**, for purposes of improving clarity, a Replacement Sheet being attached to this Amendment Under Rule 1.116.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15-17 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these changes.

In the Telephonic Interview between applicants' attorney, Samuel Freund, and Examiner Aurangzeb Hassan dated Wednesday, March 10, claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, and 12 were discussed. Applicants stated that independent claims 1 and 12 teach an apparatus and method for defining the function of a multifunction circuit board or storage module which is inserted into a slot or bin of an enclosure. Once inserted into the slot, the circuit board detects and interprets a physical binary representation of an identifying physical characteristic of the slot, and is directed to perform that particular function associated with the slot characteristic. There are four embodiments of the generated physical binary representation specifically described in the subject Specification: (a) tabs in a prescribed binary pattern located in the interior portion of the slot which completely block, or at least reduce the amount of light from a light source reaching detectors on the circuit board (claims 5 and 6); (b) a series of individual light sources in the bin whose on-off condition generates a prescribed binary pattern which is detected on the circuit board (claims 8 and 9); a series of mechanical projections disposed in the slot in a prescribed binary pattern which activate microswitches on the circuit board reflective of this pattern (claim 10 and 11); and a series of Hall-effect probes for detecting changes in magnetic field strength as a result of the source(s) of the magnetic field being blocked by tabs disposed in the bin in a prescribed binary pattern (claim 11), with corresponding method claims depending from independent claim 12.

The Examiner stated that if the word "displaying" were to be replaced with "generating" in the claims, the word "functional" inserted before "characteristic in certain places, and the word "physical" inserted before "binary representation" throughout the claims, the resulting amended claims would overcome the currently cited prior art.

Applicants have made these changes, and amended FIG. 1A and the Specification to locate light source power supply **26** on the bin instead of on the circuit board, in order to improve clarity. No new matter has been added by these changes. In particular, the changes to the drawings and the Specification find support in lines 18-21 of page 5 of the subject Specification, as originally filed.

In view of the discussion presented hereinabove, applicants respectfully believe that subject claims 1-18, as amended, are in condition for allowance, or appeal. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of these claims by the Examiner at an early date.

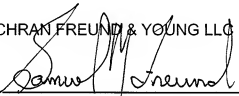
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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